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LAWRENCE & LIM'S
#7
EX-MUTANTS
DON'T WORRY, WE'LL BE SAFE HERE!
PLUS: A Special 6-Page Preview Of BLOODWING
EX-MUTANTS
Eternity Comics
#7
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Ex-Mutants #7
"New Hope... No Hope!!!"

THIS ISSUE'S TRIVIA

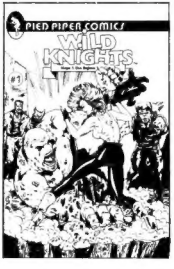
This issue was first published by Pied Piper Comics and reprinted by Eternity Comics (Blue Border of the scans).

THINGS UNPUBLISHED

In the advertisments of this issue are three items that never saw publication.

First up are two covers that were ultimately not used on the final books.

I will include both as larger images with the final scans of each book.



The third book's cover was used with the re-print of this issue. I have so far found no information on the contents of this book. One may assume that it would have been simular to Marvel Comics' Official Handbooks or DC Comics' Who's Who books, Which ever the case may be, it will most likely remain a mystery.

KING SPYDER
January 4th, 2009

VERSION 1

PIED PIPER COMICS™
$1.95
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LAWRENCE & LIM'S
#7
EX-MUTANTS™
TM & © 1987 LAWRENCE/LIM/CAMPITI
DON'T WORRY.
WE'LL BE SAFE HERE!

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40-Page Special
PLUS: A Special 6-Page Preview Of BLOODWING
EX MUTANTS

PIED PIPER PIPELINE!

Proudly Presents a Pageant of Peerless Publications!

ITEM:

IT'S OFFICIAL! In the space of just a few short months, **PIED PIPER COMICS** have taken comicdom by storm! Seems our loyal legions simply can't get enough of our magnificent mags! So who says this isn't quickly becoming the Piper Age of Comics?! (Certainly not us...you know how *we* hate to brag!)

ITEM:

Practically everyone (except our envious competition) is raving about **BEAST WARRIORS OF SHAOLIN**...our latest and possibly greatest hit! **Peerless Peter Quinones**, whose power packed scripting has propelled him to fan-favorite status virtually overnight, has carefully crafted the mysterious legends of ancient China into a modern comics masterwork--and **Galloping Glen Johnson's** incredible pencils must be seen to be believed! (Even then, we aren't sure how he manages to pack so much action on every single page--but we aren't complaining!) Add the awesome inks of **Magic Marty Lasick** and it's another titanic triumph from cover to cover!

ITEM:

Speaking of **Peerless Pete**, there's just no holding him back when he on a roll... and right now he's practically an ever-lovin' avalanche! We're referring, natch, to his other blockbuster hit, **TERRAFORMERS**! SF adventure at it's very best...as only **Cruisin' Kelley Jones & Jaunty Jim Sinclair**, art team supreme, could deliniate! And just wait till you catch the spectrum-smashing colors of **Rugged Ron Courtney**! We never dreamed a comic could look so good!

ITEM:

Of course **Peerless Pete** isn't the only writer here in the **Piper Bullpen** with a double-barrelled hit on his hands! How could be possibly forget **Killer Kevin Juaire**, co-creator and scripter (along with our own **Dauntless David Campiti**) of **HERO ALLIANCE**...arguably the best super-hero team book going--and with **Rapid Ron Lim & Crushing Keith Williams** handling the art chores and **Mischevious Marcus David** on the colors, who are we to argue? Unless you mention **POWER FACTOR, KILLER KEVIN'S** other smash series, that is! This one has all the power and drama you've come to expect... plus the pulsating pencilling of the one and only **Champion Carmine Infantino**! All we had to do was add the incredible inking of **Dashing Doug Hazelwood** and the eye-popping airbrush artistry of **Titanic Tom Vincent**, and the rest was easy! If you miss the excitement, frantic one, you'll have nobody to blame but yourself!

ITEM:

If excitement's what you're craving, we've discovered one of the most exciting new artists since we unleashed **Rapid Ron Lim** on the comics world! Now we're proud to present the awesome artwork of **Jumpin' Jack Snider**! We were so overwhelmed by his electrifying pencilling that we immediately assigned him **NEW HUMANS #3**...and that's just the beginning for this talented newcomer! We predict great things for **Jumpin' Jack**, especially since we've teamed him with **Jollin' Jeff Dee**, inker extraordinaire! Throw in **Daring Dennis Duarte**, who scripts as mean a comic story as we've seen in many a moon, and is it any wonder we have yet another smash success on our hands?

ITEM:

Art lovers take note! **EX-MUTANTS #8** features the dramatic debut of **JAZZY JOE PHILLIPS!** There's no doubt about it, the man's a super-star in the making!

ITEM:

Because YOU demanded it, we're unleashing our third **EX-MUTANTS** related title...and this one's a doozy! So, without further adieu, welcome **THE WILD KNIGHTS**...scripted by **Daring Dennis**, with the pandemonious pencilling of **Cuddley Kevin Vanhook**, and the uncanny inking of **Bouncin' Bill Anderson**! You won't want to miss the action-packed premiere of the greatest motorcycle mutant mayhem book of all time! (Come to think of it, **THE WILD KNIGHTS** is the ONLY motorcycle mutant mayhem book of all time...but heck, who's counting?)

ITEM:

No doubt about it, **PIED PIPER COMICS** has become a hotbed of the greatest new talent in comicdom today--there's an ever increasing excitement in the air, pushing your overworked bullpen to even greater heights! But the long, hard hours are worth it, faithful one...because we do it all for you!

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EX MUTANTS™

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CHRIS ULM/Vice-President. DAVE OLBRICH/Secretary.

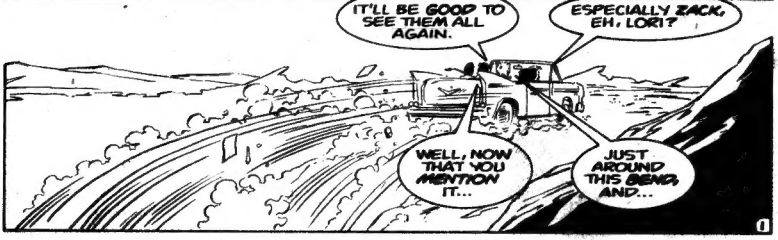
ANGIE--?

--ANGIE, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HUH?

OH...I'M SORRY, LORELEI. I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT DOC.
I KNOW. WE WERE ALL PRETTY UPSET BY WHAT HAPPENED WHEN HE SHOT BARNEY, I--

THAT'S NOT ALL OF IT. THE WAY WE LEFT--WE REALLY DIDN'T EVEN GIVE DOC A CHANCE.
HE RAISED ME FROM CHILDHOOD, AND WHEN THE REST OF YOU WALKED AWAY I FOLLOWED WITHOUT A THOUGHT. LORI, I JUST CAN'T HELP THINKING--
UH--EXCUSE ME--

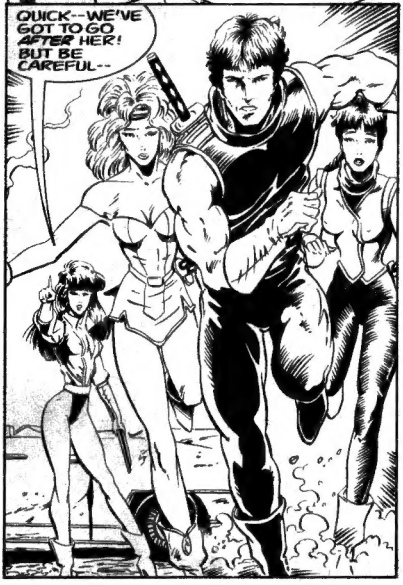
--BUT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW WE'RE ALMOST THERE.
SAFE AND SOUND, TOO--HUH, BRWP I DON'T KNOW WHY EVERYONE COMPLAINS ABOUT MY DRIVING!
BELUSHI--WOULD YOU LIKE A LIST?


IT'LL BE GOOD TO SEE THEM ALL AGAIN.
ESPECIALLY ZACK, EH, LORI?
WELL, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
JUST AROUND THIS BEND, AND...

LAWRENCE & LIM'S
X-MUTANT™
NEW HOPE...
NO HOPE!!!
GOOD LORD!!!
WHAT HAPPENED?!?
ZACK!!
SCREECH!!!
DAVID LAWRENCE
WONDEROUS WRITING
RON LIM & TIM DZON
AMAZING ARTWORK & INCREDIBLE INKING
PINAHA & ADDIS
LITERATE LETTERING
DAVID CAMPITI
SENSIBLE SUPERVISION
2
3

ZACK--
--WHERE ARE YOU??!
LORELEI--WAIT!

DAMN! SHE'S RUNNING AROUND OUT THERE--
--AND WE DON'T HAVE A CLUE WHAT'S HAPPENING!!


QUICK--WE'VE GOT TO GO AFTER HER! BUT BE CAREFUL--

"--WE DON'T KNOW WHAT MIGHT BE WAITING FOR US!"

SLAM
OOOOFF!
'EY!
WHATSAMATTER YOU? HOW COME YOU DON'T WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOIN'?
WATCH WHERE I'M GOING...?!?
YOU DO ALL THIS--
--AND YOU'RE YELLING AT ME TO WATCH WHERE I'M GOING?!?
WHAT CHA' MEAN, WE DO ALL THIS?
'EY, LADY, DO WE REALLY LOOKA LIKE WE COULD DO ALL THIS?
RUSTY--
--HELP!!!

THANKS, RUSTY! NOW--

--EN GUARDE!!!

CHOP!

'EY!

WHAT CHA' TRYIN' TO DO? THE LADY, SHE GOTTA A SWORD, AND YOU HANDA ME A PIECE A WOOD?!?
YOU TRYIN' TO GET ME--

--KILLED...?

LORI!!
LOOK, I KNOW I'M A STRANGE ONE TO ASK THIS QUESTION--
--BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
WHAT AM I DOING?!?
I'M GOING TO MAKE THEM PAY!!
WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE I'M DOING?!?
THEY BURNED DOWN THE WHOLE VILLAGE--THEY PROBABLY KILLED ZACK!
LORELEI, WE DON'T KNOW THAT. WE DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON HERE. WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF THESE MEN HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT!
LORELEI, DON'T YOU SEE? YOU WERE ABOUT TO DO WHAT WE ALL CONDEMNED DOC FOR--
WITHOUT A QUESTION, WITHOUT A THOUGHT, YOU WERE ABOUT TO KILL--
--WHEN YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO.
OH, ANGIE...!!

--OH GOD ANGIE--I'M SORRY.

'EY, TANKS A LOT, MISTER! I THOUGHT I WAS FINISHED FOR SURE!
WAIT A MINUTE--

--WE'RE NOT FINISHED YET. WE'VE GOT LOTS OF QUESTIONS, AND IF WE DON'T LIKE THE ANSWERS--
HONK

--I MAY JUST "FINISH" YOU MYSELF!

HONEST-- ANYTHING I KNOW, I'LL TELL YA. BUT ITSA NOT MY FAULT IF I DON'T KNOW VERY MUCH, OKAY?

FROM THE LOOKS OF HIM, I'D SAY THAT'S HIS PARENTS' FAULT.
COME ON-- TALK!
"TALK..."

--TALK TO ME, PLEASE, DARLING.
I'M JUST BUSY NOW, DEAR. THAT'S ALL. YOU CAN STOP WORRYING.

I TOLD YOU I'M-- YOOWWCH!

DAMN!!

YES, I KNOW. YOU'RE FINE. THAT'S WHY YOU HAVEN'T SLEPT FOR DAYS--
--THAT'S WHY YOU'LL HARDLY EAT--

--THAT'S WHY YOU'RE SPENDING ENDLESS HOURS MAKING MEANINGLESS ADJUSTMENTS ON YOUR EQUIPMENT.
MMMM... YOU'RE SO TENSE. YOUR SHOULDERS ARE SO TIGHT.
DARLING--

--YOU'VE BEEN SO UPSET SINCE THE EX-MUTANTS LEFT. PLEASE-- TELL ME ABOUT IT.
THAT'S WHAT I'M HERE FOR!

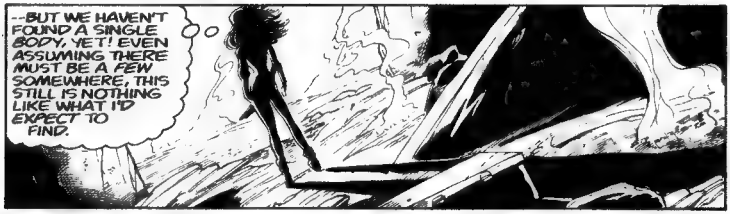
IT'S NOT JUST THEIR LEAVING. IT'S NOT JUST HOW THEY LEFT. IT'S STRANGE.
IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN.
"EVER SINCE FRED DIED, THINGS HAVE BECOME SO COMPLICATED. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A LONER--
"AND SUDDENLY I'M A LEADER. DAMN! EVERYONE LOOKS TO ME FOR ANSWERS--AND EVEN ORDERS. SO I JUST DID WHAT I HAD TO! THEY COULDN'T UNDERSTAND.
"MY MOTHER TURNS UP ALIVE, AFTER THIRTY YEARS, AND A WORLD WAR--A MIRACLE, BY ANY MEASURE--AND I ALIENATE HER COMPLETELY, ALL BECAUSE SHE HAD EQUIPMENT WE COULD USE.
"I COULD HAVE TALKED TO HER, TRIED TO WORK SOMETHING OUT. MAYBE I DIDN'T HANDLE IT RIGHT, BUT I WAS THINKING ABOUT EVERYBODY BEING BETTER OFF IN THE LONG RUN. AND BARNEY--
"--BARNEY WAS A DANGER. I COULD'VE SUBDUED HIM FOR THE MOMENT, BUT HE'D HAVE GONE OFF AGAIN. WE DON'T HAVE PRISONS--I JUST DIDN'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO.
"I'M NOT HAPPY--AND THE CHILDREN THOUGHT I WAS TERRIBLY WRONG."

THEY'VE GROWN SO MUCH. AFTER THEIR FIRST BATTLE, OH GOD--AT LEAST A DOZEN PEOPLE DEAD, DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE MOST SHOCKED REACTION WAS?
IT WAS VIKKI--AND SHE WAS UPSET BECAUSE SHE BROKE A NAIL!
IT WAS MORE LIKE A GAME, THEN.
"DARLING, I JUST WISH I COULD SEE THEM AGAIN--AND TELL THEM HOW I FEEL."
--SO WE GETTA HALFWAY THERE, AND WHADDAYA THINK? WE FORGOTTA THE--
:SIGH: THIS JUST ISN'T GETTING US ANY-WHERE.
I THINK THEY'RE KIND OF CUTE.
YOU WOULD. OKAY--IT SEEMS LIKE THE VILLAGE IS DESERTED EXCEPT FOR THESE TWO.
ANGIE, VIKKI--THE THREE OF US ARE GOING TO SCOUT AROUND.
BELUSHI, LORELEI--STAY PUT AND GUARD THESE TWO.
ERIN--
--ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO LEAVE HER WITH THEM? SHE'S TRYING TO HIDE IT, BUT LORELEI'S STILL PRETTY UPSET.
THAT'S WHY I LEFT BELUSHI BEHIND. IF ANYBODY CAN GET ON HER NERVES WORSE THAN THOSE TWO WILL, HE'S THE MAN TO DO IT!
AND UNLESS THE WILD KNIGHTS DID THIS TO THEIR OWN SETTLEMENT, THERE'S BOUND TO BE SOME BODIES IN THIS WRECKAGE--
--AND CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT SHE'S LIABLE TO DO IF WE FIND THAT ZACK'S IS ONE OF THEM?

WE'LL SPLIT UP TO COVER MORE GROUND, BUT DON'T WANDER TOO FAR. AND IF YOU SPOT ANY TROUBLE, DON'T TRY TO HANDLE IT ALONE. DON'T FORGET--

--WE'VE SEEN THE WILD KNIGHTS IN ACTION! THEY'RE NOT EXACTLY PUSH OVERS. ANYONE WHO COULD DO THIS TO THEM IS GOING TO BE SERIOUS TROUBLE!

I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF THIS. THE KNIGHTS JUST AREN'T THE TYPE TO TURN AND RUN--NOT EVEN WHEN THEY SHOULD! I'D EXPECT THEM TO FIGHT TO THE LAST MAN--


--BUT WE HAVEN'T FOUND A SINGLE BODY, YET! EVEN ASSUMING THERE MUST BE A FEW SOMEWHERE, THIS STILL IS NOTHING LIKE WHAT I'D EXPECT TO FIND.

WEAPONS EVEN. UNUSED.

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?

WHY?

WHY WOULD ANYONE DESTROY THIS PLACE? WE WERE SO HAPPY HERE--!

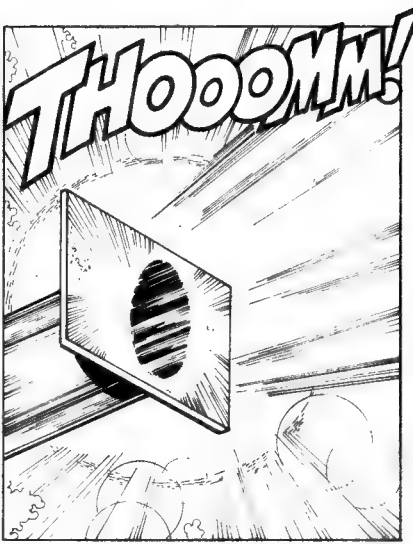
WE WERE EVEN GOING TO STAY HERE, THE FIRST TIME WE LEFT DOC--
-UNTIL WE GOT SICK WITH RADIATION POISONING.
WHEN WE RETURNED TO THE CITY, AND FOUND DOC HAD BEEN CAPTURED, ZACK STOOD BESIDE US--

ZACK, YOU NEVER LET US DOWN. AND WE WON'T LET YOU DOWN EITHER.
WE'LL FIND WHOMEVER'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS. AND WHEN WE DO, WELL--

HE'LL LEARN A THING OR TWO ABOUT DESTRUCTION!!

--SOMETHING LIKE...

RRRRUUUMMBBLEEEEE



WHAT WAS THAT?

KROOM!

I DON'T KNOW...

--BUT I'VE GOT A HUNCH WE'D BETTER FIND OUT!
YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT, BUT SOMEHOW--
--I JUST KNOW WE'RE GOING TO REGRET IT!
HONK! HONK!
I'M A WIT YOU, RUSTY--LETSA GET OUTTA HERE--
--WHILE THE GETTIN', SHE'S A PRETTY GOOD!!
HONK! HONK!
VIKK!! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'M FINE--
--BUT THOSE SHOTS CAME FROM ANGIE'S DIRECTION, AND--
OH, NO--
ANGIE!

THE FIRST ONE WAS JUST A WARNING SHOT! SURRENDER NOW--

--OR THE NEXT ONE'S FOR REAL!

QUICK! WE'VE GOTTA DO SOME-THING!

I'M OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS...

JUST COME ON!

DON'T WORRY-- I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING!

BELUSHI-- WAIT! YOU CAN'T JUST CHARGE OFF AFTER THAT THING--

WE NEED A PLAN BEFORE--

SUICIDE.

OF COURSE.

JUST THE SORT OF PLAN I'D EXPECT BELUSHI TO COME UP WITH.

WELL?

NOW LET'S SEE...

I'VE GOT ONE SWORD--

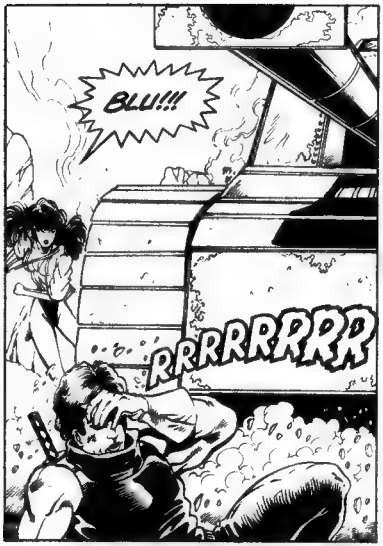
--NO PLACE TO RUN--

--AND I'M FACING A MA-CHINE THAT CAN LEVEL A VILLAGE.

SIGH

I THINK I'M IN TROUBLE.
DON'T WORRY, ANGIE--
WE'LL SAVE YOU!
SAVE ME?!? YOU'RE ATTACKING A TANK WITH YOUR BARE HANDS--
--WHO THE HELL'S GOING TO SAVE YOU?
HOW WOULD I KNOW?
I JUST MAKE THIS STUFF UP AS I GO.
KLANG! KLANG! KLANG!
GREAT.
THEY'RE GOING TO GET KILLED.
THEY'RE JUST GOING TO GET KILLED--
--AND I GUESS THEY'RE GOING TO GET ME KILLED, TOO!
HEY!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING--
ERIN!
I WAS ABOUT TO ASK YOU THE SAME QUESTION!
WELL, ANGELA WAS CORNERED BY THE TANK, AND BELUSHI WAS TRYING TO RESCUE HER, AND I JUST FIGURED--
--WELL, I MIGHT AS WELL GET KILLED WITH THE REST OF THEM!
YOU KNOW THE WORST PART--THE WAY THIS DAY HAS BEEN GOING--
--THAT ALMOST MAKES SENSE!
COME ON! LET'S SEE IF THESE WEAPONS I FOUND HELP US RESCUE THE OTHERS!
HEY--IT'S MOVING! EVERYBODY LOOK--OOOOOFFF!!!
WHUNK
STUD
19


BLU!!!
RRRRRRRR

BRRRAAAAPPP!

CHING! CHING! CHING! CHING! CHING!

JUST WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF--ABSOLUTELY USELESS! AND MY OTHER WEAPON'S PROBABLY WORTHLESS AGAINST THIS THING, TOO!
--BUT I'VE GOT TO TRY BEFORE IT'S--
WE'VE WASTED ENOUGH TIME!
EITHER YOU'RE PRISONERS--
--OR YOU'RE DEAD!
...IT'S TOO LATE...
WHRRRRRR

WHILE THAT SMOKE BOMB BLINDS THEM--
--EVERYBODY MOVE!
THOOM!
BLU--WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
QUICK! THIS WAY LOOKS...
...SAFE--
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE CAUGHT SOME STRAGGLERS!
BELUSH!--LOOK OUT! HE'S GOT A GUN!
WHAP!
NO PROBLEM, ERIN!
NO--
KRAK!
--PROBLEM--
--AT ALL!
WHUMP!
SNAK!

NEXT?
NOT BAD, BLU!
SURE WASN'T. AFTER THAT, I'D SAY WE'RE AS GOOD AS--
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
--CAUGHT.
RRRUMMBBLLE
OH, WELL--
--WAS A GOOD LIFE, WHILE IT LASTED.

LATER...
HMM... LOOKS LIKE AN OLD PRISON!
ERIN, DO YOU THINK THEY'VE GOT ZACK HERE?

PROBABLY, LORELE!--
BUT I DON'T THINK THEY'RE GOING TO GIVE US MUCH OF A CHANCE TO LOOK FOR HIM!

WE'LL FIND HIM, SOMEHOW--
TAKE 'EM BACK TO THE HOLDING PENS!
RRRRRRR

AND WHEN WE DO..
DAMN.

THEY'VE GOT THE EX-MUTANTS, TOO.
MUST'VE BEEN ONE HELL OF A FIGHT, THOUGH.

I DON'T KNOW. THEY DON'T LOOK THAT TOUGH TO ME.
YOU DON'T LOOK TOO DANGEROUS NOW, EITHER!
YEAH? WELL, YOU ALL AIN'T SO MUCH IF YA TAKE YER FANCY WEAPONS AWAY--

--AND WHEN I GET OUT OF THIS CELL, I'LL SHOW YA!
AH, ZACHARY--

THAT HARDLY SEEMS LIKELY. NOW DOES IT?
YOU!

UH-AKIH.
HELLO, ZACHARY.
I'M SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US.
NEXT
A DAY AT THE RACE WARS

PIED PIPER COMICS™

LAWRENCE & LIM'S

#8

EX-MUTANTS™

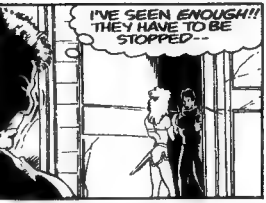
PIED PIPER COMICS

NEXT ISSUE:
"A DAY AT THE RACE WARS"

With the other Ex - Mutants in the slimy clutches of Frog, Angela turns for help to... Well, you've probably already guessed. Plus: Frog's origin revealed! The fate of The Wild Knights! The climactic confrontation! And two hard boiled eggs! "HONK!"
Make that three hard boiled eggs!

DON'T CENSOR THESE THOUGHTS!

by David Lawrence
Author of *EX-MUTANTS* ™and *THE NEW HUMANS*™



It thought it could never happen again. I thought after the McCarthy and Wertham witch hunts of the 1950s, we all knew better

Censorship

I've been wracking my brains trying to write a text page on this subject for the last month. Trying to write something intelligent, something reasonable, maybe even something poetic

And I can't. Because there's nothing much reasonable to be said about it. Very few intelligent, sensible words to exchange on the subject. And it really isn't a subject I feel even the least bit reasonable about

Because the *censors* aren't reasonable. No matter how seemingly reasonable or sensible, no matter how conciliatory their words, it all boils down to one thing· They're trying to tell me what to write and tell you what to read.

And that's wrong

The poetry on the subject was written two hundred years ago; it's called the Constitution. In this country nobody, no matter what flag or holy cloth they cloak themselves in, has that right.

As I said, I never thought it could happen again. I thought -- after the McCarthy and Wertham witch hunts of the 1950s -- that we, as a country, *all* knew better. I guess I was wrong. All of a sudden, after all these years, the cry has gone out anew for censorship of your comics.

Not that I should be surprised. The heat's been on for several years now for artists in other fields

Remember the congressional investigation of rock and roll lyrics awhile back, the hue and cry for labelling, for requiring all lyrics to be printed on the jackets? Well, the same kinds of folks have started gunning for all of *us*.

I don't know why I thought it wouldn't happen here. Given the increasingly repressive political climate in this country, it shouldn't have surprised me.

Maybe I thought we were too small a target for the Falwells to bother with.

We've got a serious problem here, like it or not. Distributors and retailers, always the nervous sort, are more than ready to cave in.

One Distributor even goes so far as to refuse to carry comics contrary to his sole moral beliefs. In short, if you patronize a comics shop he services, he's telling you what you can read.

Censorship.

Read that word over. Get to know it real well. *Understand* what it means.

The entire notion of censorship is entirely contrary to everything this country stands for, yet those who cry the loudest for censorship *swear* they're doing it for the good of America. For "the good of our children."

And where did this whole idea that comic books are children's books get started, anyway?

Sure, there are "kids' comics," just as there are comics that are entirely unsuitable for children. And some that can be enjoyed by people of all ages

But the same can be said for movies And for TV shows. Yet nobody thinks they have a responsibility to make *all* of their products palatable for the smallest of children

Yet *we're* expected to

It's an odd circle. Because comics are receiving more media attention than in years, perhaps than ever before, the cry goes out, "Hey, we'd better watch our steps. People are watching us!"

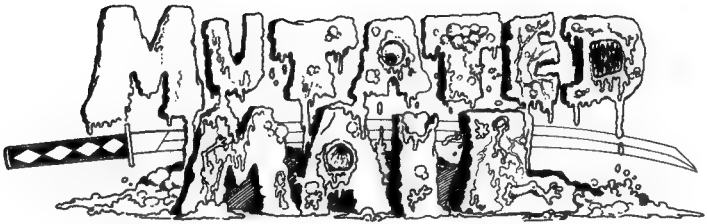
Never mind that the sudden attention is because of quality, adult products

It's the *Dark Knights* and *Watchmen* that garner media attention and attract an expanded audience that we in this business *need*, to see our medium survive.

Be strong. Be right Or you won't hear about censorship for too much longer; in fact, you won't hear about anything they don't want you to hear. If that's your idea of paradise, fine. It's not mine, though.

I prefer to *think*.

-- David Lawrence



Send your letters to:

2405 Warwood Avenue
Wheeling, WV 26003

Good evening, and welcome to the latest installment of Mutated Mail.

And as usual, I've a couple of pieces of business to get out of the way before we jump into your letters.

First up, there's the ***"Why the NEW HUMANS Editorial Ran On The Inside Front Cover of Lawrence & Lim's EX-MUTANTS #6"*** *story. Apparently, someone at the printer mislaid the mechanical for the inside front cover of the issue. They noticed the* ***NEW HUMANS*** *inside front cover was basically the same as the* ***EX-MUTANTS****, so they decided to use it instead. They did, thank heavens, dig up a copy of the correct indicia, and get it re-typset, but they didn't realize the editorials weren't exactly the same.*

However, the two editorials contained exactly the same information. Only the first paragraphs were different, and only slightly. So don't worry, you didn't miss a thing.

And now, I'd like to announce Mutated Mail's very first contest!

You didn't get to name the letter column! They refuse to let me run my ***"Win a Dream Date With David Lawrence"*** *contest! But now you can name your favorite Ex-Mutant! And not only that, but an original Ron Lim sketch is waiting for the winner!*

It's very simple. Just write a letter, telling me who is your favorite character, and why. And a few issues from now (Maybe ***#12*** *-- dress up the anniversery issue a bit) we'll announce our winner. The best essay will be selected by our expert panel, which will probably consist of David Lawrence, David Lawrence, and David Lawrence, unless I get stuck and ask for other opinions. And the best essay, as chosen by us, receives a Ron Lim drawing of his or her favorite character!*

The decision of Lawrence is final. Bribes can't hurt, but they probably won't help too much either, unless they are extremely large.

And also, since many of you did so, and I don't want to crowd out too many letters with an oft-repeated thank-you, I'd like to stop right here and thank all of you who expressed condolences on Catnip's death. Still miss the old broad sometimes, but what the hell. Nineteen years ain't a bad ride for a cat.

(Interjection! This issue, I'm jumping in to add my two-bits' worth on a subject or two. Art trivia buffs will be interested to know that, although Tim Dzon inked pages 1 - 8, Ron Lim did his own inks on the balance of this issue, so Tim could finish up the ERIN #1 Micro-Series.

Further, I'm pleased to note that we're taking the extra effort to create for the B&W format, by adding tones and such. We'd all rather avoid having our B&W titles look as though something's missing. Good job, people!

-- David Campiti)

And now, on to the letters .

Dear David,

I really thought for a while that you were going to permanently kill off the **EX-MUTANTS**, an original but likely unpopular move, and I'm glad to be proven wrong. They're a set of characters I'm already beginning to care about, and are too new to be done away with, radiation poisoning or no.

The last battle was well-done. It always appeared to me that Babe would come out on Doc's side and not Great Fred's. It was also logical that not all the mutants would be behind Fred, which is a good thing. The Ex-Mutants vs. the Rest of the World would have been something of a one-sided contest.

So you've come to the end of the introductory storyline, and ended up with the group back in their test tubes. Where does the comic go from here?

I have no doubt there are a great many adventures awaiting our heroes, but the main problems the world faces are problems Doc must solve, and the Ex-Mutants can only help using Vikki and Belushi's methods. Otherwise, it's sort of an underdog-vs-the millions story that's been done many times over. So, I'm waiting anxiously for the next developments.

Ron Lim's art is really nice. In these days when the motto behind publishing new B&Ws seems to be make the art as bad as possible, it's refreshing to see a professional look. There's a bit of stylization, with some ultra-long legs around, and so on.

The colors on the covers have also been lovely, and if you could get the same look on the interiors it wouldn't do any harm to progress to color there, too.

You seem to have taken a definite "no-breasts" policy in the art, despite the somewhat graphic violence that pervades the book, and despite several scenes where the avoidance of bare breasts looks contrived and silly. You shouldn't write these scenes if you're going to downplay them. You're currently taking the adolescent line of making sure we know the women have these glands without quite showing them, with lots of ripped clothes and obviously delineated nipples.

This is somewhat inconsistent, and I think you should either go back to an unrealistic typical super-hero look, or not shy away from the obvious when it's necessary. I admit I love the scenes with Angie clinging to her costume, though

Also, as one who cried when my cat died, I appreciated you sharing your feelings on Catnip.

Until next time, take care,

Malcolm Bourne
87 Greenfield Gardens
Cricklewood
London NW2 1HU
England

This is probably as good a time as any to let everybody in on a secret. Back in those bygone days when this book was supposed to be a four-issue mini-series, with that awful long title that is best forgotten, I'd originally planned to actually kill off all the characters at the

end of #4. Belushi & Co. got a reprieve when I saw a 12-issue contract

But I've grown awfully fond of the **EX-MUTANTS** *myself, and I'm glad things worked out this way.*

I'm awfully fond of Ron's artwork, too. As I think I've said somewhere before, I really think he's going to be one of the major comic-book artists of the next decade, and possibly well beyond. I consider myself lucky to be working with him.

And more on the question of costuming after this...

Dear David,

Like Bonnie Foreman, I too have a problem with the **EX-MUTANTS**' costumes. But not the same problem.

I understand that, as artists, Ron Lim and Tim Dzon want to make their characters look good. Large chested, curvy women in highly revealing costumes does this trick rather nicely. I can even understand David's argument for the practicality of high heels in combat.

But the thing I can't understand is the artist's theory on ripped clothing.

In the beginning of **#4**, Erin's shirt is torn up, and very little of her chest is not showing. Then off she goes into battle with Great Fred. Now, I'm no designer, nor do I know anything about fabrics. But I do know that if any woman as big in the chest as Erin went through all that strenuous combat, there would not be enough left of her costume to cover all that should be covered in a comic book.

Don't think that I am getting hung up on realism, because if I was I would have to give up comics altogether. I understand that showing the **EX-MUTANTS** in even less clothing than usual can be sexy. In fact, it is sexy. It's also frustrating. They are wearing very little to begin with. There's no reason to show them wearing less.

Once in a while, like when Vikki disrobes with Belushi in **#1**, isn't so bad. But if the team is constantly in a state of semi-nudity, it detracts from the story and from the rest of the artwork. Who can look at the surrounding artwork, or even the word balloons, when they're trying to get a look at Angie's chest? I'm not a pervert or a prude, but when the obvious intent is to draw attention to a character's anatomy, I can't help notice.

I loved the tribute, if that's what it was, to *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* in the last panel of **#4**. The toast was great!

Any chance of a full-size, full-color poster of the team being made available? Or better yet, a poster of just Erin?

Sincerely,

Andrew Schub
11 Kinsbury Road
Norwalk CT 06851

First, to answer some of the semi-common points brought up in Andrew and Malcolm's letters:

After taking some more time and thinking over Ms. Foreman's complaint, I've started having some second thoughts myself. I frankly never even thought seriously about the high heels before she mentioned them. And sometimes, I think we all start to take things in these funny books a tad too seriously.

However, I may be doing something about them in the near future. Any more voices want to chirp in on this subject in the meantime? (Hmm.. I can see it all now. EX-MUTANTS ANNUAL #1: "Spiked Heels No More!")

So far as the skin issue, it goes something like this:

Actual nudity is something you're not very likely to see in this book, for the simple reason that Ron feels uncomfortable with it. I'm personally willing to use it if a story calls for it, but I doubt I'd ever find a situation where the story just couldn't survive without it. And I certainly wouldn't want to try to shove it down Ron's throat.

Some suggestiveness, perhaps, and some ripped costumes when it makes sense. And as always in my work, I'll try not to do it gratuitously.

I try to confine all the gratuitous sex and violence to my real life.

As for the couple of questions you ask at the end, I don't really know if the end of #4 was a tribute to Rocky Horror. I know I culled the "To Absent Friends" quote from somewhere, and since I've seen the movie around 25 times, I memory serves, I thought it was a good place to meet girls back when I was in high school. So Rocky Horror seems as likely a source as any, but it wasn't actually deliberate.

And if it hasn't shipped already, an **EX-MUTANTS** *poster, by Ron and Tim with colors by that same wretch Rockwell who does our covers, will be available shortly!*

(Interjection time: As "William Davidson," my pen name as the fellow who first dreamed up the premise of EX-MUTANTS, complete with the particular direction of the heels and costuming, I realize it's no secret the series began as a joke that I formed into a B&W comic some have referred to as "the perfect adolescent male fantasy." Fortunately, the book is more than that. If anyone's to "blame" for those elements, it's me, not the artists or Lawrence.

Frankly, though, I LIKE the elements of dishabelle this strip has...which Ron, better than any regularly-working comics artist I know, makes quite appealing.

[But note, please, that Ron worked very hard to achieve the "look" I demanded for the strip. He was not, by nature, a "good girl artist" and should not be pigeon-holed with that sort of thinking.]

As far as this book, though, I personally have no desire to see those elements gone.

It's no accident I selected a quality team like David Lawrence, Ron Lim, and Tim Dzon to handle EX-MUTANTS regularly. And it's quite a nod to their talents that they've taken this series above and beyond its certain surface elements, to make it as continuingly popular as it remains, even after the collapse of the B&W market in most regards!

-- David Campiti)

Dear Crew,

I've been a serious comic reader for about 11 years, and I've yet to see an independently published title that I liked. When I saw the title **EX-MUTANTS**, I thought the book would be just another rip-off of Marvel's mutants.

But I picked up the book and looked at the artwork, and decided it alone was worth the $1.80! Ron Lim is an incredible talent. He has a very clean, realistic look to his art, and it has a new and refreshing feel to it. There's no need to say that he certainly knows how to draw women!

Okay, I said that the art caught my interest. Well, the writing kept it. David Lawrence has created five very different characters that feel very real. He took very little time to develop them, but he did it very well. I feel I know the characters very well.

Lorelei is the character that I feel I know the best. She's been focused on a lot in the first several issues, and she's very interesting. Her unhappiness with her current situation makes her stand out from the others. She should just be happy she doesn't look like she used to, and maybe someone will point that out to her soon.

Erin appears to be the leader and handles it well. Belushi seems to be all guy, woman crazy, and willing to try anything once! Angie's the mother of the group. She's the smartest and probably the most mature. She saw and understood Lorelei's problem when the others didn't even notice. Along with Doc, a great cast!

The opportunities for stories in the world David has created are endless, and have much potential to be exciting and interesting every step of the way. I have nothing but good things to say about the book.

It's beautiful in B&W, and I'm not sure if color would cover it or enhance it. The cover colors look great, but I'd like to see a whole book in color before I judge it. My bet is it would look great if done right.

Keep up the great work, you've got me for the long run.

Sincerely,

Rich Langley
112 E. Wood St. Apt #4
W Lafayette IN 47907

Glad you gave us a try, and glad you're here to stay. And "sigh" here we have another person complimenting Scott Rockwell's coloring. For heaven's sake, quit being so nice to him! I have to live with the man, and believe me, his head is swollen enough already!

(An interjection here: Even as we type, the first one-third of Ron Courtney's luscious coloring on the 108-page full-color EX-MUTANTS Graphic Novel has come into the office. Color definitely makes this book look even better! Look for it this summer.

-- David Campiti)

See you all in about eight weeks!

-- David Lawrence
May 1, 1987

EX MUTANTS™ EXPRESS

EX-MUTANTS GRAPHIC NOVEL
Ex-Mutants Volume 1: The Saga Begins should be on sale any day now. This handsome, 96-page volume (in the same format as our **Ninja High School** graphic novel) reprints the first three issues of the original Ex-Mutants series along with a brand new full color wraparound cover by Ron Lim and Jimmy Palmiotti.

Volume 2, reprinting the original **Ex-Mutants #4-6** is being solicited for a May release, so have your retailer reserve your copy now.

EX-MUTANTS:
The Shattered Earth Chronicles #1
The first issue of our brand-new **Ex-Mutants** saga—The Shattered Earth Chronicles—goes on sale in March. Written by Paul Ryan O'Connor—co-creator of **The Liberator**—and illustrated by Mark Matos and Jimmy Palmiotti this issue—"Back From The Dead"—introduces new costumes and new characters designed by Uriel (artist for the **Ex-Mutants Annual**) and sports a brand new cover by Ron Lim and Jimmy Palmiotti.

Ex-Mutants: The Shattered Earth Chronicles #2—also by O'Connor, Matos, and Palmiotti—features another brand-new cover by Lim and Palmiotti, and it marks the first time Lim—the original **Ex-Mutants** artist—has drawn the entire cast in their new costumes. Issue #2 goes on sale in May.

SOLO EX-MUTANTS
Solo Ex-Mutants #3 will be coming your way in April. It's an all-new adventure—written by Jonathan Grove and illustrated by Myke and Jimmy Palmiotti—starring Angela and introducing two new characters with shady pasts—Lt. Lance Burton and his mutant-eating canine, Roscoe-14. Ron Lim and Jimmy Palmiotti provide the brand new cover.

NEW HUMANS
If you enjoy Myke's pencils on **Solo #3**, be sure to check out **New Humans**. Myke becomes the regular penciller with issue #6. Paul O'Connor remains as writer, Jimmy Palmiotti as inker.

WILD KNIGHTS
Myke, who had been the regular inker for **Wild Knights**, leaves after the first issue and turns the brushes over to Dan Panosian. Alex Leonine remains as regular penciller, Evan Dorkin as writer.

The first issue of the monthly adventures of the **Wild Knights** goes on sale in March, with a cover by Dorkin and Scott Hanna.

PREVIEWS
Don't forget that each issue of our 40-page **Ex-Mutants** titles contain previews of upcoming Eternity projects. Coming up in future issues are previews of **Fist Of God, Street Heroes, The Big Prize, Ex-Mutants Annual, Scimidar,** and **Dinosaurs For Hire.** And all of the 40-page titles sell for exactly the same price as our regular 32-page books.

That's it for now. Next time, we'll have the details on Eternity's newest **Shattered Earth** title, and a few more surprises. And remember, if there's something you'd like to see in the **Ex-Mutants** universe, please feel free to drop us a line.

ABOVE:
Angela from **Solo Ex-Mutants #3.**

LEFT:
Erin from **Ex-Mutants Annual #1.**

FEBRUARY
Solo Ex-Mutants #2 (Vikki): Grove, Snider, & Palmiotti. 40 pp, $1.95
New Humans #3: Duarte, Snider, Atkinson, & Dee. 40 pp, $1.95

MARCH
Ex-Mutants: The Shattered Earth Chronicles #1: O'Connor, Matos, Palmiotti. 40 pp, $1.95 Full Color Cover by Ron Lim and Palmiotti
Ex-Mutants Annual #1: Lawrence, Caton, Palmiotti. 40 pp $1.95.
New Humans #4: O'Connor, Van Hook, Palmiotti. 40 pp $1.95
Wild Knights #1: Dorkin, Leonine, Myke. 32 pp $1.95

APRIL
Solo Ex-Mutants #3 (Angela): Grove, Myke, Palmiotti. 40 pp $1.95
New Humans #5: O'Connor, Van Hook, Palmiotti. 40 pp $1.95
Wild Knights #2: Dorkin, Leonine, Panosian.

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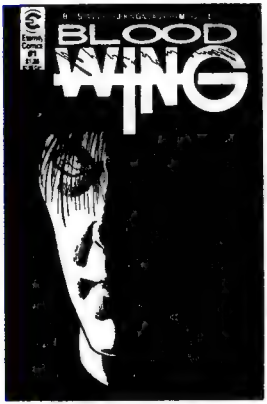
ETERNITY NOTEBOOK

The big news from Eternity this month is **Bloodwing**, our new monthly adventure series. Described by author Bill Spangler as "a head-on collision between *The Shadow* and *Blade Runner*," *Bloodwing* is illustrated by John Gallagher and Michael Laing.



Bloodwing is set on Starbridge—a gigantic space station at the edge of known space—roughly 1200 years in the future. Four corporations based on Starbridge struggle for any advantage—technological or political. Into this volatile mix comes Bloodwing, an intense, brooding figure with the ability to sense and manipulate emotions.

In the first issue, now on sale, Bloodwing aids the former shipmates of Starbridge Administrator Thaddeus Doran in keeping their cargo—a Kharva life pod—out of the hands of one of the corporations.

A special preview of *Bloodwing* can be found in **Ex-Mutants #7**.

Dark Wolf, the popular demon hunter created by R.A. Jones and Butch Burcham, returns to monthly publication this month following the success of last summer's mini-series (some issues of which are still available—check our back issues page). Dark Wolf was supposedly destroyed following his battle with Abraxis, leaving Father Michael Tremaine without a heart-eating alter ego.

Tremaine is ready to re-settle into a normal existence until he's called upon to aid a young boy possessed by an evil spirit—a spirit so great that only Dark Wolf can save him.

R.A. Jones and Butch Burcham have just signed with Eternity for a new mini-series, **Fist Of God**, that will debut in May.

On the **Ex-Mutants** front, **Solo Ex-Mutants** continues with its second issue, wherein Vikki and Douglas encounter a shipload full of mutant pirates. This is a brand new story, containing never-before-seen material, written by Jonathan Grove and illustrated by Jack Snider and regular *Ex-Mutants* inker Jimmy Palmiotti.

This issue also features a special preview of our new March title, **Dinosaurs For Hire** by Tom Mason, Bryon Carson, and Alex Leonine (with a little help from Mike Roberts). Carson was the artist on the popular mini-series **Bones** last summer and Alex Leonine is the penciller for Eternity's **Wild Knights** (also debuting in March), and Mike Roberts is the regular inker for **The Rovers.**

Also debuting in March is the first issue of **Ex-Mutants: The Shattered Earth Chronicles #1**. Writer Paul O'Connor has redefined and rejuvenated the team, returning the series to its beginnings and artists Uriel Caton, Mark Matos and Jimmy Palmiotti have designed new costumes for all of the members. Original *Ex-Mutants* artist Ron Lim (together with Jimmy Palmiotti) has created a stunning all-new cover for the first issue.

Ex-Mutants has proved to be one of the most popular b&w titles ever published, so you won't want to miss getting in on the ground floor of a brand new series of adventures. Ask your retailer to hold a copy or two for you.

Speaking of **The Shattered Earth Chronicles**, Eternity has combined all **Ex-Mutants** and related titles under this banner. Whenever you see it—on **Wild Knights, New Humans,** or **Solo Ex-Mutants**—you'll know that it relates to the *Ex-Mutants* universe.

In **The Trouble With Girls #7**, Lester, Apache, and the Foster Kids journey to the Yucatan where Les is worshipped as the "White Sun God!" *Girls* co-creator Gerard Jones has recently sold an Elongated Man story for DC's **Secret Origins #30**, which should be on sale any day now. The art is by *Stig's Inferno* creator Ty Templeton. Will Jacobs, Jones, and artist Tim Hamilton have recently signed for **The Trouble With Girls** annual—on sale this summer—featuring Lester, the 1988 Seoul Olympics, and alien invaders. Reserve your copy now!

Next month we'll be talking about our new *Ex-Mutants* titles: *Ex-Mutants: The Shattered Earth Chronicles* #1, *New Humans* #4, *Wild Knights* #1, and *Solo Ex-Mutants* #3. And, two very special projects, *Dinosaurs For Hire* #1 and *Empire* #1 (created by *Ex-Mutants* writer Paul O'Connor). See you then! And remember, if you're missing a copy of one of our titles, check our back issues page.

BLOODWING ©1988 Bill Spangler & John Gallagher. Artwork ©1988 John Gallagher & Michael Laing.

FEBRUARY CHECKLIST

BLOODWING #1
"The Shadow meets *Blade Runner*" by Bill Spangler/John Gallagher/Michael Laing.

DARK WOLF #1
Everybody's favorite heart-eating demon returns in all new adventures. R.A. Jones/Butch Burcham.

LIBERATOR #2
The Liberator learns that the source of his tremendous power has given him terminal cancer. Paul O'Connor/Jim Chadwick/Butch Burcham.

NEW HUMANS #3
The New Humans are loose in England. 40-page issue with a special cover by Clarke Hawbaker.

NINJA #10
Henderson/Farrell/Ritter

OUTLANDER #5
Outlander washes ashore seeking refuge from the witch, Carmen Gille. Scott Finley/Brooks Hagan.

RETROGRADE #2
Origin issue.
Gregg Kendrick/Frank Turner

ROVERS #6
The Zombies are loose in Roseburg, Ohio. S.A. Bennett/Scott Bieser/Mike Roberts.

SOLO EX-MUTANTS #2
Vikki and Douglas face a boatload of mutant pirates. Grove/Snider/Palmiotti.

STEALTH FORCE #6
The Secretary climbs aboard. Valerio/Oliffe/Laing.

TROUBLE WITH GIRLS #7
Les is captured by Mayans and worshipped as the "White Sun God." Jacobs/Jones/Hamilton.

Still On Sale
NINJA HIGH SCHOOL Graphic Novel (112 pages) by Ben Dunn

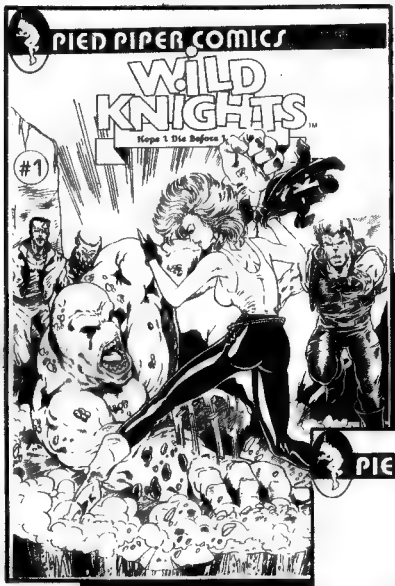
FUTURIANS GRAPHIC NOVEL (112 pages) by Dave Cockrum (full color).

PIRATE CORPS. #4
Evan Dorkin's acclaimed sf adventure epic.

SHURIKEN TEAM-UP #1
All of Eternity's Japanese heroes together in one adventure! Byers/Barral/Mowry.

SCARLET IN GASLIGHT #2
Sherlock Holmes vs Dracula! Powell/Makinen.

WILD KNIGHTS™ #1



PREMIERE ISSUE--
A FULL-COLOR MASTERWORK!

Everyone's favorite motorcyclin' **mutants**
now in a full-length **COLOR** feature series of their own!
Brought to you with unpardonable pride by
DENNIS DUARTE, KEVIN VANHOOK,
& BILL ANDERSON!

With a **RON LIM & CHRIS TSUDA** cover!

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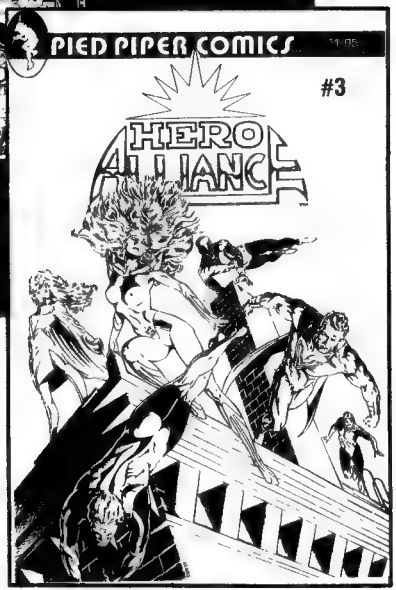
To The EX-MUTANTS Legend!



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Ever dream you were a super-hero?
Well, it could turn out to be a nightmare!
A guaranteed
KEVIN JUAIRE, DAVID CAMPITI,
RON LIM, KEITH WILLIAMS, & MARCUS DAVID
masterwork!

Plus! another incredible cover by
BART SEARS & MIKE WITHERBY!

HERO ALLIANCE™ #3

LAWRENCE & LIM'S
EX-MUTANTS UNIVERSE FILES™ #1

Lawrence & Lim Reveal All!

Everything you've always wanted to know
about comicdom's hottest mutants
and much, much more!
Jam-packed from cover to cover
with all new, all great material by
**DAVID LAWRENCE, DAVID CAMPITI,
RON LIM, & TIM DZON!**

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WRAP-AROUND COVER BY LIM & DZON!**

Another Hit Series From The Burgeoning EX-MUTANTS Universe!

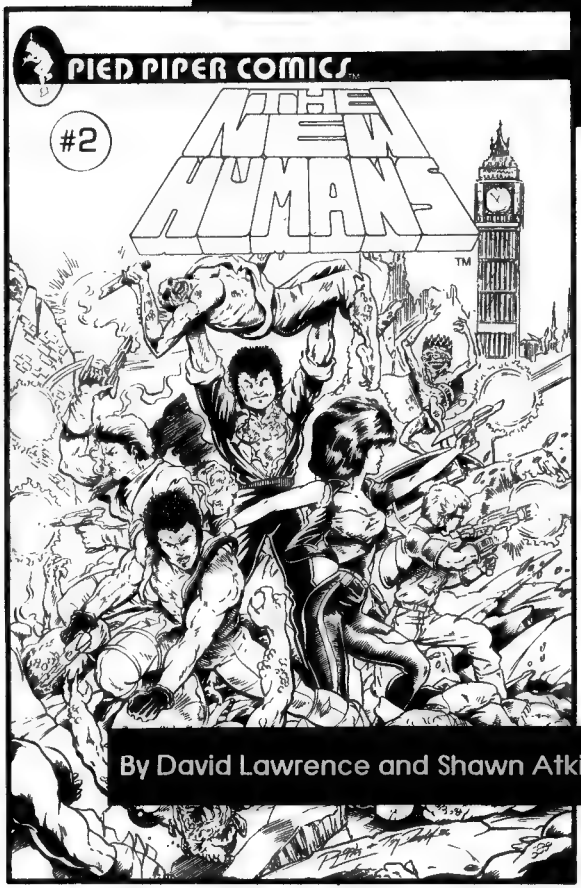
Presenting the pulse-pounding **pencilling premiere**
of **JUMPIN' JACK SNIDER**
and the smudgeless inking of **JOLTIN' JEFF DEE**
in a story we just had to call
"Better Fred Than Dead!"
cause that's the only title
scripter **DENNIS DUARTE** came up with!

With a tantalizing "good girl" cover
by fan-favorite artist **RON LIM!**

THE NEW HUMANS™ #3

LEADING THE WAY IN GRAPHIC ENTERTAINMENT

THERE'LL ALWAYS BE AN ENGLAND!
(WELL, SORT OF...)



PIED PIPER COMICS

EX MUTANTS™
All New Stories And Art!
THE SHATTERED EARTH CHRONICLES
Written by Paul O'Connor
Illustrated by Mark Matos
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Full Color Cover by Ron Lim
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40 pages, $1.95.
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WILD KNIGHTS and THE NEW HUMANS
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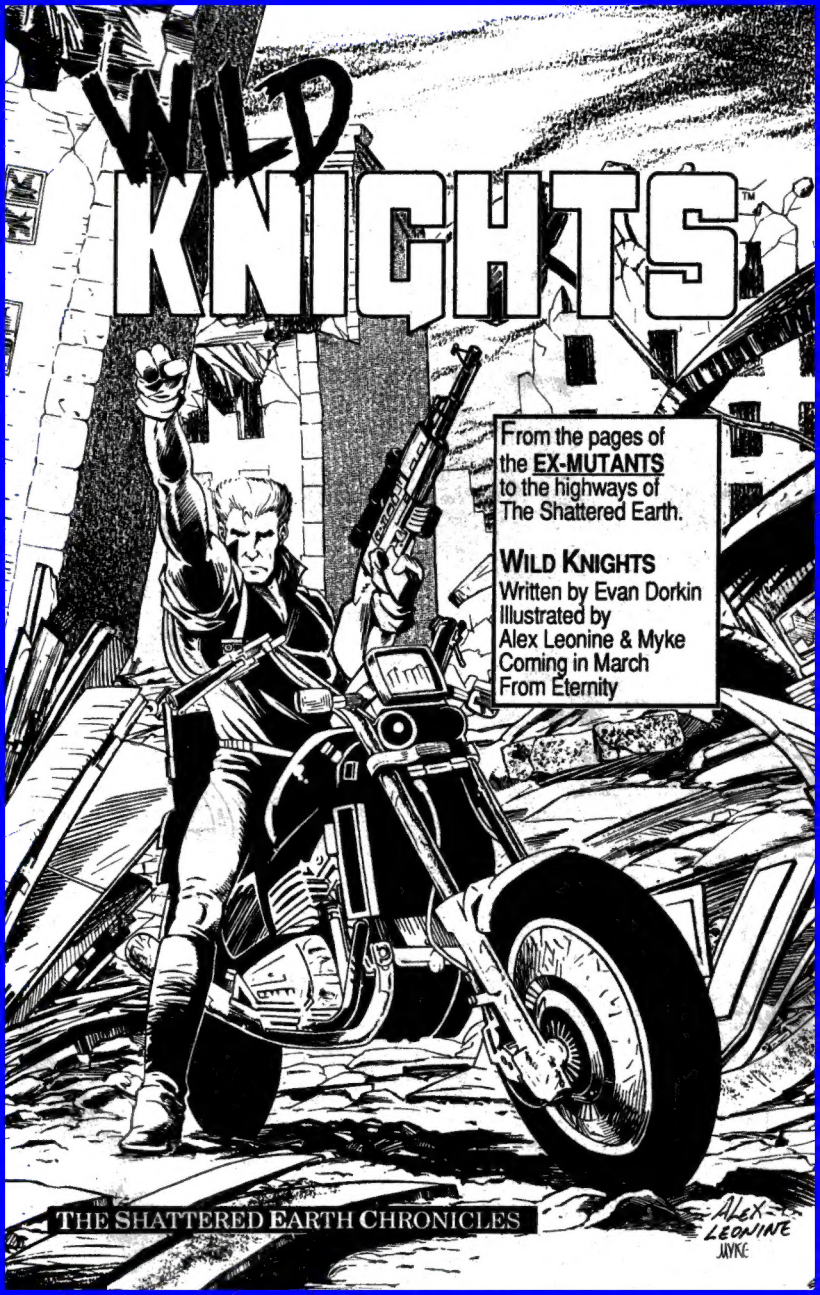
WILD KNIGHTS™
From the pages of the EX-MUTANTS to the highways of The Shattered Earth.
WILD KNIGHTS
Written by Evan Dorkin
Illustrated by
Alex Leonine & Myke
Coming in March
From Eternity
THE SHATTERED EARTH CHRONICLES
ALEX LEONINE
MYKE

THE PIED PIPER CHECKLIST

A Line-Up Of Our Mighty Mags On Sale Aug./Sept.

EX-MUTANTS #8: Can even the Ex-Mutants survive "A Day at the Race Wars"? Non-stop action, start to finish, courtesy of **DAVID LAWRENCE, DAVID CAMPITI, RON LIM, JOE PHILLIPS, & TIM DZON!**

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